

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, the claims in the application are new claims 21 and 22.

The drawings have been left unamended due to the fact that the new claims 21 and 22 make no reference to an “external pulling mechanism”.

The title and abstract have been amended to comply with the suggestions in the OA.

Also, the term “ATV” has been removed from the claims.

The claims have also been amended to overcome or avoid the 35 USC §112 rejection of the original claims.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited references, taken singly or in combination, fail to anticipate or make obvious the subject matter defined in new claims 21 and 22.

It is respectfully submitted that Vickers, which relates to a sling for small motors, does not disclose a sharp end portion, nor many of the other features set forth in new claims 21 and 22.

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that Wright, which relates to a pocket hanger or car strap for public conveyances, does not disclose a sharp end portion, nor a strap member having a strap webbing, the end portions of which are folded back and secured at various portions to provide loops in the end of the strap webbing for insertion therethrough of the handle portion of a hook member, nor several of the other features recited in new claim 21 and new claim 22.

The rejection of original, but now cancelled, claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12, under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vickers in view of Lutz, is not understood and is traversed.

Such rejection refers to Autenrieth, as allegedly presented in section 9 of the OA, but there is no such presentation in section 9. The OA does concede that Autenrieth does not show a tapered

end portion having a tapered end portion, and applicant respectfully submits that with regard to the new claims, Autenrieth does not disclose a sharp end portion.

Furthermore, it is not clear whether this rejection is based on Vickers in view of Lutz, or Autenrieth in view of Lutz.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that none of the references suggest the combination of Vickers and Lutz, nor the combination of Autenrieth and Lutz. In any event such a combination would not result in the structure as set forth in new claims 21 and 22.

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that it would not be obvious to a person skilled in the art of devices for hooking and dragging a game animal to look to the sling for small motors of Vickers, nor to the hand grapple of Autenrieth, nor the pocket hanger of Wright, nor the meat loop of Lutz, in any alleged attempt to come up with applicant's invention as now claimed.

Furthermore it is respectfully submitted that this is a very crowded area of technology, wherein small advances are deemed patentable.

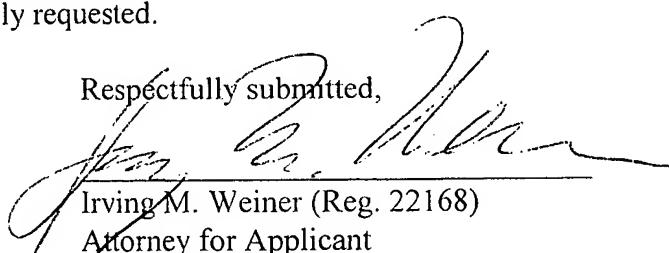
It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner is not convinced that the application is now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner promptly telephone the undersigned attorney for applicant in an effort to facilitate the prosecution, and/or to narrow the issues for appeal, if necessary.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Date: February 10, 2005
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Respectfully submitted,


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Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that the foregoing amendment was sent by first class mail to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Arlington, VA 22313-1450, on February 10, 2005.

Kathryn F. Kniep
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